

Indian National Army.

585. *MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Travancoreans in the I. N. A.?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER : Government have no information.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : May I know whether any of the I. N. A. personnel have returned to Travancore?

PRESIDENT : Of course; because quite a number of them met me.

Royal Proclamation allowing free cultivation of royal trees.

586. *MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE : Will the Government be pleased :
(a) to state the date of the Royal Proclamation allowing the public free cultivation of Royal trees in their own lands :

(b) to lay on the table a copy of the said proclamation ;

(c) to state :

(i) when were further reductions in the tracts made ;

(ii) which are the present tracts where the grown up Royal trees in private lands belong to the Government ; and

(iii) what are the boundaries of those tracts and the extent of their area ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR (*Conservator of Forests*) :

(a) Tract No. I. Royal Proclamation dated 27-5-1111/11-1-1936.

Tract No. II.—Royal Proclamation dated 9-1-1117/25-8-1941.

(b) Copies of the above Proclamations are placed on the Secretary's table.

(c) (i) No further reduction has been made.

(ii) Tract No. III.

(iii) About 4,060 square miles.

All lands east of the road passing from Nagercoil to Thuckalai, Meycode, Kulasekarom, Kaliel, Nedumangad, Pallode, Thenmala, Punalur, Pathanapuram, Konni, Ranni, Manimala, Kanjirapalli, Erattupettah, Palai, Thodupuzha, Moovattupuzha, Kothamangalam, Thattakad and Periyar.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE : May I know why in Tract No. III, permission is not given to plant Royal trees ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR : There is no objection to planting trees in Tract III.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE : But it is not done so far. Are we to understand that we are given permission to plant Royal trees after the Proclamation ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR : There is no regular permission to be given after a Proclamation.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE : May I know whether the Government have received any complaint from the public saying that the Royal trees which they have planted after the Proclamation have been removed by the department ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: No, Sir.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member whether there are registered holdings within tract No. III?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the member whether he is aware that the owners of these registered holdings are unable to enjoy the rights and privileges conferred by the Proclamation in question?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: The Proclamation in question refers only to tracts Nos. I and II. It is only when the royalty is lifted that a Proclamation is issued.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether the Proclamation includes lands with reference to tract No. III and if so the date of its operation?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: There is no reference in the Proclamation with regard to the date of abolition of royalties in tract No. III.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether such dates are fixed with reference to tracts Nos. I and II in the Proclamation?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: I think there is a misunderstanding about this matter. There was a report on royalties and that was submitted to Government. It provided that a Proclamation will be issued by His Highness the Maharaja when royalty rights are abolished in particular tracts. With regard to tracts Nos. I and II, such Proclamations have been issued. With regard to tract No. III a certain date was indicated in the report. But no Proclamation has been issued with regard to that tract.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know the date so indicated in the report referred to by the honourable member?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: By about 1117, it was expected that royalty on tract No. III would be lifted.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member what was the recommendation contained in the report with reference to tract No. III?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: That it may be lifted in 1117.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member why that recommendation was not given effect to as suggested in the report?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: One of the reasons was that there was such a large number of trees left in that tract and that there was urgent demand for timber for war supplies by the Government of India. So it was not possible or desirable to abolish royalties in that tract on the date indicated in the report.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether after that date till this moment there is any timber in tract No. III left behind without being exploited?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: There are still something like 12 lakhs cubic feet of timber left behind in tract No. III for exploitation.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Out of that quantity may I know what quantity of timber remains in registered holdings included in tract No. III?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: They are all in registered holdings.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know when the Government will consider the question of lifting royalty in tract No. III?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: I doubt if that question is in order.

PRESIDENT: The head of the department cannot anticipate the decision of Government.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: In answer to a question it was stated by the Economic Development Board that it will be lifted as soon as possible. Can we have any idea of the word "as soon as possible?"

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: As soon as possible.

Road connecting Suchindram-Marungur road, etc.

587. *MR. THEROOR S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI (*Thovala cum Agastivaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they are aware that the banks of the Therkulam east of the Theroor junction, of Chettikulam and of the channel starting from the Athanmarkulam escape of the N. P. channel form a cartable connecting road between the Suchindram-Marungur road, the Suchindram-Vellamadam road and the Theroor-Nagercoil road;

(b) whether they are aware that it is an important road deserving metalling and proper maintenance;

(c) what is the length of this road;

(d) whether this road is being properly maintained; and

(e) if so what is the maintenance amount per year?

MR. K. K. KARTHA (*Executive Engineer*): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

(d) It is not maintained as a road.

(e) Does not arise in view of answer to (d).

MR. THEROOR S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI: May I know whether the member is aware that the P. W. D. Advisory Board visited this road recently and recommended for its maintenance?

MR. K. K. KARTHA: Government are aware of it.

Ranny-Manimala road.

588. *MR. V. I. IDICULA (*Pattanamthitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state what they have done to improve the bad condition of the Ranny-Manimala road after the last budget session?